

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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P R 210040Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 198667

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR, ETEL, GE, GW, WB, ITU, US

SUBJECT: EAST GERMAN INTERFERENCE WITH RIAS TRANSMISSIONS

REF: (A) USBERLIN 1349, (B) STATE 178708

USBERLIN ALSO FOR RIAS, GERT

1. DEPARTMENT AND USIA HAVE CONSIDERED THREAT TO RECEPTION
OF RIAS TRANSMISSIONS POSED BY REPORTED GDR INTENTIONS
TO OPEN TRANSMITTERS ON 990 KHZ. AND 94.15 MHZ (REFTELS).
WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT PROBLEMS RAISED BY
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IMPLEMENTATION OF GDR PLANS WOULD BE SUFFICIENTLY GRAVE
TO WARRANT STRONG US EFFORT TO HEAD THEM OFF BEFORE THEY
ARE CARRIED THROUGH. SINCE OUR LEVERAGE AT THE ITU
FREQUENCY CONFERENCE WOULD BE LIMITED AT BEST, WE BELIEVE

THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE IN THIS DIRECTION BEFORE THE CONFERENCE OPENS.

2. AS FIRST STEP, EUR/CE DIRECTOR RAISED QUESTION WITH GDR AMBASSADOR SIEBER ON AUGUST 19. NOTING THAT SEVERE INTERFERENCE TO RIAS TRANSMISSIONS WOULD RESULT IF PLANNED GDR TRANSMITTERS BEGAN OPERATION, EUR/CE DIRECTOR PRESENTED SIEBER WITH A "NON-PAPER" CONTAINING FACTUAL

DESCRIPTION OF GDR PLANS AS WE UNDERSTOOD THEM, AND ASKED FOR AN EXPLANATION OF GDR INTENTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. DEPTOFF STATED THAT IF GDR PERSISTED WITH ITS PLANS, THEN US-GDR RELATIONS COULD NOT BUT BE AFFECTED. SIEBER SAID HE HAD HEARD NOTHING ABOUT PLANS FOR NEW TRANSMITTERS. HE PROMISED TO REPORT OUR VIEWS AND TO REPLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. TEXT OF US "NON-PAPER IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT:

A. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HAS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE ITU REGIONAL LONG AND MEDIUM BROADCASTING CONFERENCE, SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND FROM OCTOBER 6 TO NOVEMBER 22, 1975, A REQUIREMENT TO OPERATE A THREE STATION NETWORK OF TRANSMITTERS WOULD BE LOCATED AT HOYERSWERDA, ROSTOCK AND WACHENBRUNN IN THE GDR.

B. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC INTENDS TO COMMENCE TRANSMISSIONS WITH A TRANSMITTER LOCATED AT ROEBEL, MECKLENBURG ON 94.15 MHZ. IN THE ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY BAND (UKW).

C. TRANSMITTERS OF THE RADIO IN THE AMERICAN SECTOR (RIAS) IN BERLIN HAVE OPERATED FOR SEVERAL YEARS ON 989 KHZ. IN THE MEDIUM WAVE BAND AND 94.3 MHZ. IN THE ULTRA CONFIDENTIAL

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HIGH FREQUENCY BAND. USE OF THESE FREQUENCIES HAS BEEN DULY REGISTERED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION. ASSIGNMENT OF THE TWO FREQUENCIES TO RIAS APPEARS IN THE ITU'S INTERNATIONAL FREQUENCY LIST.

D. OPERATION OF TRANSMITTERS BY THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC

REPUBLICON 990 KHZ. AND 94.15 MHZ. FROM THE PROPOSED GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS WOULD CAUSE SEVERE INTERFERENCE TO RIAS TRANSMISSIONS ON THE 989 KHZ. AND 94.3 MHZ CHANNELS.

E. GIVEN THIS FACT AND IN LIGHT OF THE CLEAR LEGAL RIGHT OF RIAS TO USE THESE FREQUENCIES UNDER ITU REGULATIONS,

IT IS DIFFICULT TO FIND JUSTIFICATION FOR PLANS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO BEGIN OPERATION OF THE NEW TRANSMITTERS. IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC CLARIFY THE SITUATION BY PROVIDING AN EXPLANATION OF ITS INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO THESE TRANSMITTERS.

F. SINCE THE ITU REGIONAL LONG AND MEDIUM WAVE BROADCASTING CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN LESS THAN TWO

MONTHS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING A REPLY ON THIS MATTER FROM THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT

3. EMBASSY BERLIN SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL IN FOREIGN MINISTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, TO SUPPORT WASHINGTON APPROACH ON ABOVE TEXT OF "NON-PAPER" IN PRESENTING OUR POSITION. GENERAL APPROACH AT THIS JUNCTURE SHOULD BE ONE OF ASKING FOR CLARIFICATION BUT SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE WARNING ABOUT POTENTIAL HARM TO US-GDR RELATIONSHIP SHOULD GDR PERSIST WITH ITS PLANS.

4. FOR BONN: WE HAVE INFORMED GERMAN EMBASSY HERE OF THE ABOVE. MAW

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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